

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 509
By Wallace

A RESOLUTION to honor Mr. Roy Messer for his meritorious
service to the town of White Pine.

WHEREAS, this legislative body deems it appropriate to recognize those venerable
Tennesseans who have given unreservedly of their time and prodigious talents to effectuate the
public good; and

WHEREAS, one such person is Mr. Roy Messer, a highly respected citizen of the town
of White Pine, whose civic and professional achievements can be categorized as nothing short
of outstanding; and

WHEREAS, born on November 6, 1902, in Haywood County, North Carolina, Roy
Messer's long list of accomplishments have led him down many paths since moving to White
Pine in 1924; and

WHEREAS, a witness to some of the greatest advancements of the 20th century, he has
played an integral role in the growth and development of Jefferson County for the past 72 years;
and

WHEREAS, Mr. Messer's remarkable career in public service began in 1932 when he
was elected to a term as a White Pine alderman. With few services and a small tax base, he
and other council members picked up trash as part of their duties; and

WHEREAS, he later served for 12 years on the Jefferson County Court, voting on
several important school building projects and trying many lawsuits as a justice of the peace.

Mr. Messer was also instrumental in organizing the county planning commission, and was its first chairman; and

WHEREAS, already established in the used car and maintenance business, it was the ever astute Roy Messer who followed the Tennessee Valley Authority's installation of electrical service in the region with the sale of electrical appliances, oftentimes leaving refrigerators on the front porch for prospective customers to use on a trial basis; and

WHEREAS, in 1959 Mr. Messer took a seat on the board of directors of the Appalachian Electric Cooperative; thirty-six years later he is president of AEC's board and was recently elected to a new three-year term; and

WHEREAS, Roy Messer's association with the co-op has become his number one priority, and his greatest source of pride; he credits the TVA and Appalachian Electric with producing the most significant catalyst for growth since he arrived in White Pine; and

WHEREAS, due in large part to Roy Messer's superlative leadership and vision, the cooperative's customer base has increased from 10,000 to over 34,000 customers, with an increased budget of over \$49 million since he joined the board; Roy Messer proudly calls it the "best co-op in the state"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Messer served with probity for 17 years on the Jefferson County Road Commission, and for his efforts in getting every road in the county paved the highway off Interstate 81 at White Pine was named in his honor; and

WHEREAS, despite the many demands placed upon him, Roy Messer has found time through the years to donate his considerable talent as a director of the First Tennessee Bank in Dandridge, director of the United Way of Jefferson, charter member of the White Pine Lion's Club, secretary of the Douglas-Cherokee Economic Authority, president of the Volunteer Housing Development Corporation, member and past director of the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce, member of the White Pine Industrial Board, senior member of the Morristown

Country Club, member of the Morristown Chamber of Commerce, and service on several Tennessee Electric Cooperative committees; and

WHEREAS, for his many noteworthy accomplishments, Mr. Messer was named the 1992 "Jefferson Countian of the Year" by the chamber of commerce and First Tennessee Bank; and

WHEREAS, Roy Messer evinces his deep faith as a member of the White Pine United Methodist Church, where he adroitly serves on the administrative board; and

WHEREAS, his numerous honors and accolades aside, Mr. Messer is most appreciative of the love and support he shares with his wife, Virginia. He and his first wife, who is deceased, raised three loving daughters, of whom he is especially proud. Mr. Messer is the grandfather of seven and great-grandfather of fourteen; and

WHEREAS, the name Roy Messer is synonymous with intelligence, compassion and professionalism, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we recognize Mr. Roy Messer for the dedication with which he has served as a representative of the good people of White Pine and Tennesseans everywhere.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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